



Senate Committee on Community, Economic and Recreational Development

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Senate Resolution 10, Printer's No. 71

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Sponsor: Senator Earll and Senator Fontana

Resolution Summary

Senate Resolution No. 10, Printer's No. 71 is a resolution designating the month of March 2009 as "Problem Gambling Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania and observing the week of March 1 through 7, 2009, as "National Problem Gambling Awareness Week".

The purpose of this resolution is to help ensure the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are informed about the issue of problem gambling and the programs available to help individuals and their families who have been adversely affected by this serious issue. While legalized gambling was designed to allow individuals to enjoy its recreational aspects and to foster economic development in this Commonwealth, Pennsylvanians must also be aware that a small percentage (2% to 3% according to the National Council of Problem Gambling) of the United States population will have a gambling problem in any given year. This awareness and knowledge will help ensure that the Commonwealth can identify and adequately address instances of problem gambling.

It is resolved that the Senate urge the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board to continue its outreach efforts and to work with the Pennsylvania gaming industry as a whole and with the slot machine licensees to develop and implement problem gambling programs at licensed facilities and further promote community-based programs in the Commonwealth.

Furthermore, the Senate urges the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Programs within the Department of Health, Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board and individuals, professionals and organizations dedicated to public awareness and treatment of problem gambling to jointly create, develop and promote public awareness campaigns regarding the recognition and prevention of problem gambling.